Cultivation of organic tea

621. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has set up a separate system for encouraging growing of organic tea;

(b) if so, the details of the facilities and incentives provided by the Tea Board for growing organic tea;

(c) whether organic certification would be arranged for such growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the Tea Board has been able to promote Indian organic teas abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Tea Board has prepared guidelines for production and a package of practices for organic tea in India and circulated to the tea industry. As a part of promotion of growing organic tea in India, Tea Board has arranged awareness programmes on organic principles and cultivation. During the 10th Plan, Tea Board has drawn up a scheme for giving financial assistance to the gardens for obtaining organic certification under which assistance is given to the extent of Rs. 75,000/- or 50% of the cost, whichever is less.

(c) and (d) Tea Board, as an accreditation body, has authorized two certification agencies viz. SKAL International, Mumbai and IMO Control, Bangalore for inspection and certification of organic tea growing areas. The certification programme has been going on since December 2001.

(e) The production of organic tea has gone up from 1.68 million kgs. in 1998 to 3.5 million kgs. in 2003. Out of the total production, about 75% is exported mainly to Germany, U.K., France, U.S.A. and Japan. Certification of organic tea has been introduced for facilitating exports. Tea Board alongwith organic tea producers and exporters from India have been participating in an annual event Bio Fach, the biggest Organic Food Fair in the world, usually held in Germany, which has helped to promote the cause of organic tea from India. Darjeeling organic tea, as a premium niche market speciality export product, is promoted by Tea Board through all its

promotional activities, at buyer seller meets, trade fairs and delegation visits.

Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji

622. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted any proposal for installation of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Megh Dambri Fort Raigad;

(b) if so, the cost and other details thereof; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has received a request from the Government of Maharashtra for installation of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Megh Dambri at Fort Raigad. The proposal has been carefully examined in detail and a view has been taken by the Central Government that the installation of above statue in Megh Dambri in Raigad Fort, which is a protected monument of national importance will not only contravene the provisions of the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, but will also affect the original ambience, ancient features & aesthetic view of the monument.

Scheme for Bodoland Territorial Areas of Assam

623. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the approval scheme out of the Budget amount of 100 crore for the Bodoland territorial areas District of Assam till 2004:

(b) the actual amount released so far; and

(c) the details of the completed works?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The details of scheme relating to Bodoland Territorial Council areas retained for techno-economic examination for the year 2004-2005 is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).